

Request for Decision

Southview Drive, West of Kelly Lake Road - Curve Warning Flashing Beacons

Presented To: Operations Committee

Presented: Monday, Apr 14, 2014

Report Date: Wednesday, Mar 26, 2014

Type: Managers' Reports

Recommendation

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury maintain the existing curve warning signs on Southview Drive, west of Kelly Lake Road.

Background

At the Operations Committee meeting held on January 20, 2014, the Committee approved a request from the Ward 1 Councillor to direct staff to prepare a report "That a yellow flashing light be installed on the speed reduction sign on the curve on Southview Drive, just west of Kelly Lake Road".

In this area, Southview Drive is constructed to an urban standard with an asphalt width of 10 metres and a sidewalk along the south side. A sharp horizontal curve is located approximately 75 metres west of Kelly Lake Road (see Exhibit 'A'). The intersection of Southview Drive and Kelly Lake Road is controlled with an all-way stop. A median island is also constructed 165 metres west of the curve to calm traffic entering the built up area of Southview Drive.

In 2012, the Ward 1 Councillor forwarded a request from area residents to improve safety on the subject curve. As a result, Staff completed a Ball Bank Study to determine whether an advisory speed was appropriate for this curve. Ball Bank studies provide a combined measure of the centrifugal force, vehicle roll and superelevation of the road. These studies are conservative and are a measure of rider comfort rather than safety. The study showed that a speed of 30 km/h is appropriate for the curve. Therefore Staff arranged to install "sharp curve" warning signs with a "30 km/h" advisory speed tabs in advance of the curve facing both directions of travel.

Based on the latest request, staff reviewed the City's collision data from 2008 to December 2013. In the 5 year period from 2009 to 2013 inclusive, there were no collisions reported on the curve. In 2008 there was a collision on the curve where a parked car was struck. That year there was also a collision at the intersection of Southview Drive and Bigwood Drive. No collisions have occurred since the sharp curve warning signs with advisory speed tabs were installed.

Signed By

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Typically supplementary flashing beacons are used to reinforce warning signs when unusual circumstances are presented that requires greater emphasis. They are often used to improve safety at collision prone locations where less costly counter measures have not been effective. Also, as indicated in the Ontario Traffic Manual, the use of beacons should be restricted to critical situations only in order to ensure that their impact is not lost due to overuse.

There are many horizontal curves in the City that have advisory speed signs similar to Southview Drive. The curve is located in an urban area with illumination making the alignment of the road apparent to approaching drivers. The sharp curve warning signs provide advance warning of the curve ahead. The relative safety of the curve is supported by the absence of collisions over the last 5 years.

Based on the above information, the existing advance warning signs for the subject curve are appropriate and installation of flashing amber beacons are not recommended.

EXHIBIT A

Southview Drive, West of Kelly Lake Road
Curve Warning Flashing Beacons
2014-03-24

